

How to apply for a permit to keep chickens in Milwaukee

1. Complete an approved DNS-362 site plan (sample below) to the satisfaction of the department. Blank site plans are available from DNS at 4001 S. 6th St., 1st floor and online.

2. Present form (DNS-362) and a check or money order payable to "City of Milwaukee" for the current fee* to the clerk at the Department of Neighborhood Services, 4001 S. 6th St., 1st floor for review (this office does not accept cash as payment). Applicants may apply for permits Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.. Approval by the department is contingent on a review for completeness and compliance with the ordinance. The permit will be mailed to the applicant upon approval. *fee=For current fees call 414-286-2759 or visit: www.milwaukee.gov/dns/fees


3. Before a permit is issued, DNS will notify all of the property owners where the chickens shall be kept and owners (not residents) off all directly or diagonally abutting properties, including those across an alley. Neighbors will be given an opportunity to voice any concerns they may have.

Where to find applications and forms

This brochure, a link to the ordinance, and a Chicken Coop site plan form can be found at: www.milwaukee.gov/chicken.

Any questions regarding this process should be directed to the DNS Residential Section at 414-286-2759.

Sample Form DNS-362



City of Milwaukee
Department of
Neighborhood
Services

Environmental Section
Chicken Keeping Application
and Site Plan

Name (print) John E. Doe Phone 414-555-5555

Address 1224 S. 30th St. Number of hens 4

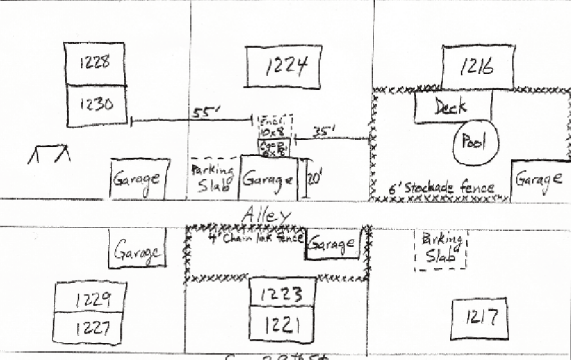
Zip Code 53207 E-mail johnedoe@doe.com

1. Total square feet of coop and enclosure: 128 (Self) Square feet of coop alone (<50): 48

2. Distance of enclosure to nearest habitable structure on adjoining properties (>25 feet): 60

Use the area below to sketch chicken keeping site. Include distances from lot lines, structures (garage, shed), fences/barriers, pools, etc. Identify neighbors whose property lines connect to your property including diagonals as well as any neighbor across the alley, but not across the street.

(SAMPLE) S. 30th St. Indicate Direction N →



S. 29th St.

Issue Date _____ Clerk _____ Permit Number _____ Permit Fee \$ _____

DNS-362 Coop Plan V2 TDM 7/25/00 11

Milwaukee Property Data
available on the web at

<http://www.milwaukee.gov/dns>



DNS-361 soc 04/21/2017



REQUIREMENTS OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE CHICKEN COOP ORDINANCE



Requirements for

- **Application Process**
- **Number and type of chickens**
- **Coop dimensions and location**
- **Site maintenance requirements**
- **Care of chickens**



Helpful Tips from the
City of Milwaukee
Department of
Neighborhood
Services



What chickens are allowed?

As of July 28, 2011 residents in the City of Milwaukee will be allowed to keep chickens with the following provisions:

- The keeping of up to 4 chickens, with a permit is allowed on a residential premise only. Permits will not be allowed on commercial or mixed-use occupancies.
- Roosters are not allowed.
- No person shall slaughter any chickens.

Care for the chickens

- Chickens shall be provided with fresh water at all times and adequate amounts of feed.
- Chickens shall be provided with a sanitary and adequately-sized, covered enclosure, or coop, and shall be kept in the enclosure or a sanitary and adequately-sized and fenced enclosure, or yard, at all times. Chicken coops and enclosures may not be homes or garages.

Coop location and design

- Chicken coops shall be constructed in a workmanlike manner, be moisture resistant, and either raised off the ground or placed on a hard surface such as concrete, patio block or gravel.
- Chicken coops and yards shall be constructed so they will not have standing water.
- Chicken coops shall be cleaned of hen droppings, uneaten feed, feathers and other waste daily and as necessary to ensure a health, odor or other nuisance does not exist.
- Chicken coops and yards together shall be large enough to provide at least 16 square feet per chicken. Fenced enclosure space can be added to the coop space to add up to the minimum number of square feet. Coops cannot be taller than 10 feet. Coops cannot exceed 50 sq. ft..
- Enclosures shall not be closer than 25 feet to any residential structure on an adjacent lot. Enclosures shall not be located in the front yard of a dwelling.

Problems with chickens to be reported

- Chickens shall not cause any nuisance, unhealthy condition, public health threat or otherwise interfere with the normal use of property or enjoyment of life by humans or animals.

- Unusual illness or death of chickens shall be reported to the Health Department.
- A permit may be revoked for failure to comply with provisions of the ordinance and, once revoked, shall not be reissued.

DNS intervention or inspections

- An inspection of the proposed chicken keeping site will not be conducted by the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) as part of the permitting process. DNS will inspect and determine compliance with the ordinance on a complaint basis or if it believes a violation may be occurring. DNS may take enforcement action it deems appropriate if violations are noted.
- DNS will answer questions about the permitting process and the ordinance it is charged with enforcing. To inquire about the permitting process, call DNS Residential Section at (414) 286-2759.
- DNS will not offer advice or provide suggestions regarding the practice of keeping chickens. For example, DNS will not suggest how to build a chicken coop or enclosure nor advise on where to acquire knowledge related to chicken keeping.

